

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 283474
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:FZBROWN/FMLC
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
EA:ROAKLEY
EA/P:JCANNON
HA:FSIEVERTS
S/S-O:LRFLEISCHER
-----124122 282049Z /64
O 282039Z NOV 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 283474

EXDIS FOR MARK PRATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, VM

SUBJECT: US-VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) PARIS 34390; B) STATE 281157

1. WE NOTE THAT PHAN HIEN HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER HE WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE THIRD ROUND (PARA 3D REF A). AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, PRATT SHOULD ADVISE THE VIETNAMESE THAT THE U.S. SIDE WILL NOT HOLD A FULL SCALE PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF THE TALKS. PER REF B, WE ANTICIPATE THAT OUR REMARKS TO THE PRESS WILL BE BRIEF AND NOT REPEAT NOT IN THE EXTENDED FORM OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE MAY 3-4 MEETING. WE ALSO DO NOT WANT TO SUGGEST THAT THE TALKS WILL BE EXTENDED IN LENGTH.

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2. ON COMPOSITION OF SRV DELEGATION, PRATT SHOULD POINT OUT TO SRV LIAISON OFFICER THAT U.S. SIDE INTENDS TO PURSUE MIA ISSUE AND EXPECTS TO HAVE SPECIALISTS DISCUSSION BETWEEN FRANK SIEVERTS AND WHOMEVER SRV SIDE NAMES. WE HAD, OF COURSE, HOPED THAT VU HOANG, OR SOMEONE FROM HIS OFFICE, WOULD BE PRESENT. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHOM THE

SRV SIDE PLANS TO DESIGNATE FOR MIA AFFAIRS.

3. FOR PRATT'S BACKGROUND: OBVIOUSLY, WE CANNOT ORDER THE VIETNAMESE TO BRING SOMEONE EXPRESSLY FOR MIA DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE THEY ARE LEFT IN NO DOUBT (1) THAT OUR INTEREST IN THE MIA ISSUE HAS NOT REPEAT NOT LESSENER, (2) THAT DOMESTIC PRESSURE ON THE MIA ISSUE REMAINS STRONG AND INFLUENCES OUR NEGOTIATING POSITION AND (3) THAT FURTHER PROGRESS ON MIA'S IS ESSENTIAL TO CONTINUED PROGRESS IN NORMALIZATION. YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT SIEVERTS PLANS TO HAND OVER TO THE VIETNAMESE ADDITIONAL CASE MATERIALS AND TO DISCUSS IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES USED FOR 22 REMAINS RETURNED SEPTEMBER 30.
VANCE

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